



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs
Regular Meeting

Testimony by
HGEA/AFSCME, Local 152, AFL-CIO

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BILL 10, C.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE
HONOLULU ETHICS COMMISSION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO continues to raise the same concerns as provided in our May 12, 2011 letter to Councilmember Romy Cachola (Miscellaneous Communication #981), regarding Bill 10, C.D. 1 which amends the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu relating to the Ethics Commission.

As stated in previous testimony, we respectfully question the need to amend the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu to be more onerous than the Hawaii Revised Statutes and any other County Charter. Our organization represents employees from the State, Judiciary, Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, the University System, and the four Counties – Hawaii, Maui, Kauai and the City & County of Honolulu. Although unions generally do not represent employees in cases before the Ethics Commission, we firmly believe it is patently unfair to subject employees to anonymous and unsubstantiated oral complaints. Anonymity potentially increases the amount of frivolous and malicious complaints, and denies the accused the right to face their accuser.

It is our understanding that the Hawaii, Maui and Kauai County Charters, as well as the State Ethics Commission Law, §84-31, are collectively consistent by requiring that any complaint to the Commission be in writing. Modifying the City and County of Honolulu ordinance as proposed in this legislation creates disparity for a segment of our membership. We raise strong concerns with the potential for inequality among our members and respectfully question, shouldn't all employees, regardless of their jurisdictional employment, be held to the same ethical standards?

We continue to raise the same concerns as outlined in our May 12, 2011 letter and maintain our objection to Bill 10, C.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director